

Richmond Times-Dispatch

THE TIMES, Founded.....1888
THE DISPATCH, Founded.....1850

Published every day in the year by The Times-Dispatch Publishing Company, Inc., Address at Communications to THE TIMES-DISPATCH, Times-Dispatch Building, 10 South Tenth Street, Richmond, Va.

TELEPHONE, RANDOLPH 1

Publication Office.....10 South Tenth Street
Richmond, Va.
Philadelphia Office.....1020 Hall Street
Petersburg.....100 North Sycamore Street
Lynchburg.....218 Eighth Street

HASBROOK, STORY & BROOKS, INC.,
Special Advertising Representatives.

New York.....200 Fifth Avenue
Philadelphia.....Mutual Life Building
Chicago.....People's Gas Building

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

BY MAIL	One Year	Six Mos.	Three Mos.	One Mo.
POSTAGE PAID				
Daily and Sunday	\$8.00	\$3.00	\$1.50	8 cts
Daily only	4.00	1.00	50 cts	25 cts
Sunday only	2.00	1.00	50 cts	25 cts

By Times-Dispatch Carrier Delivery Service in Richmond (and suburbs) and Petersburg:

Daily with Sunday, one week.....15 cents
Daily without Sunday, one week.....10 cents
Sunday only.....5 cents

Entered January 27, 1905, at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Manuscripts and communications submitted for publication will not be returned unless accompanied by postage stamps.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1915.

House of Delegates Shows the Way

ENACTMENT by the House of Delegates of the measures embodying partial segregation, as a means toward effecting real tax reform in this State, is a cheering and hopeful accomplishment, worth far more than the oceans of talk and ink that have been poured over this subject in the past.

The tax bills go now to the Senate, where some amendments are not unlikely and, perhaps, not undesirable. Our hope is that they will receive the Senate's best thought, and that procedure there, as in the House, will be animated by a real desire to accomplish a real and permanent good.

Obviously and admittedly, there is no chance whatever of the passage of measures that will even promise equalization of taxation through a commission. Partial segregation, under existing conditions, represents Virginia's sole hope of lessening abuses that have become intolerable—that menace and throttle the State's progress. The Senate should keep this fact in mind. To abandon all hope of reform because it cannot be accomplished in a particular way is neither good sportsmanship nor sound sense.

John P. Branch

RICHMOND will scarce know how to bear the loss of John P. Branch. He had been for so many years an intimate part of the city's life, had contributed so much of affectionate interest and keen intelligence to its growth and development, that his passing is like that of some venerable and venerated institution.

He was indeed one of the columns of the new Richmond, rooted in the Old South and loving its tradition of courtesy and hospitality, of gentleness and faith, but rising into other levels of optimistic vision and useful achievement. Around him and other men like him the new Richmond has reared its structure of assured prosperity; he and men like him have pointed the way to that supremacy in the financial affairs of this State and this section that Richmond has attained.

In every movement that promised to make the city he loved fairer or happier, richer or healthier, he bore a conspicuous part. The weight of more than four-score years, although it compelled the relinquishment of some of his business activities, could not crush his interest in all the great world of men and affairs. His mind was acute and active almost to the last.

His death is a great loss.

Investigation of Gas Department

IT WAS inevitable, of course, with the removal of the unjust responsibility for gas bills of their tenants that owners of real estate in Richmond had borne, that there would be some extension of the requirement of advance deposits from customers of the Gas Department and some dissatisfaction with the operation of the new plan.

Extensions have been made, and dissatisfaction, vigorously expressed, has followed in due course. As to the number of deposits required and the manner in which the department has used the discretion vested in it, there is a lively difference of opinion. The department officials say the new deposits will not amount in their total to 2 per cent of those in existence before the rule of responsibility was changed. That would not seem to be an unreasonable enlargement, so far as mere number is concerned. On the other hand, Councilman English declares the department has committed "a gross abuse of its discretion" and exacted deposits in a wholesale and indiscriminate fashion.

Under the circumstances, the proposed investigation by the Administrative Board might not be a bad thing.

Serious Democratic Disaffection

REVOLT of Democratic Senators against the ship-purchase bill, which by action of the Senate caucus has been made a party measure, is one of the most discouraging evidences of disaffection within its ranks that the Democracy has faced since the Wilson administration came into power.

So long as it is united, militant, upright in the faith of the fathers, Democracy makes an irresistible appeal to this country's favor. Historically, its troubles have always been in lack of cohesion. No sooner in the past did it assume the guidance of the ship of state than its component elements began to quarrel over the course. Internal strife evolved weakness, and weakness, failure and popular repudiation.

Convinced believers in the principles of Democracy as the theory of government best calculated to confer happiness on the American people have exulted in the Wilson leadership and in the exhibition of party discipline and efficiency under that leadership in the present Congress. All this seemed to augur a future of continued supremacy and useful endeavor.

Come now this serious and determined

mutiny—a joining with the party's foes to defeat a party measure—until it becomes necessary for the President to call on the support of progressive Republicans to carry into effect what he conceives to be the clear mandate of the popular will.

We are willing to concede to the nine Senators who deserted their party and their party's leader in this emergency the honesty as well as the courage of their convictions; we are willing to believe that they consulted and followed their sense of duty and right; but the result is not less unfortunate. If through their efforts the solidarity of the Democracy is riven and shattered and its high hopes blasted, they must bear the blame of Democratic disaster.

Mr. Morgan's Bad Impression

READING the testimony given by J. Pierpont Morgan before the Federal Commission on Industrial Relations does not leave a very pleasant taste in the mouth. On him the happiness and well-being of many thousands, perhaps of hundreds of thousands, of men and women are largely dependent. Yet, so far as his testimony discloses, he has no intimate knowledge of these persons' condition, and no special interest in it.

Such an attitude is in disagreeable contrast to that taken by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., when he was on the stand before the same commission some days ago. Young Mr. Rockefeller declared his belief that large employers of labor could not escape responsibility for the material welfare of their employees. In all that he said was the evidence of study and patient investigation. His views are not in accord with those held by the leaders of organized labor, and his plans of relief are denounced by hostile critics as foredoomed to failure, but even those critics now admit that the plans are kindly, well-intended and inspired by a just sense of human responsibility.

Mr. Morgan, apparently, has no views on the subject, none worth the mentioning. Possible legislation to better industrial relations was "too big for me," he said. He had no idea as to the age at which children should go to work, save the indefinite "the later the better, I should imagine." He had no idea, either, how many hours a day a man should work. He had no opinion regarding the causes of poverty.

It seems inconceivable that a man could wield the tremendous power that Mr. Morgan holds in his hands without having his attention attracted and his mind engaged by its human elements. If Mr. Morgan's testimony does him no injustice, he is concerned only with the money of which his firm is the trustee. He does not regard himself as in any sense the trustee of men's lives.

If this view is to be taken as representative, and capital and labor are indeed things apart, with separate and hostile interests, who shall blame the labor leader or the demagogue who stirs the discontented to active revolt? Fortunately for this country, the Morgan view is not the representative view. The Rockefeller purpose to compose difficulties, and to find a ground of mutual advantage is more nearly in accord with American theories of right and the ideals of the average American captain of industry and finance.

Belated Justice to V. M. I.

VIRGINIA'S Representatives in Congress should support the plan to take from the calendar, under a suspension of the rules, and force to a favorable vote the measure appropriating \$100,000 to pay the war claims of the Virginia Military Institute.

Destruction of the institute buildings and equipment by a Federal army under General Hunter was rather an act of reprisal than a necessary and legitimate act of war. "Stonewall" Jackson had left a professor's chair at Lexington to acquire fame under the banners of the Confederacy, and the battalion of cadets had served with gallantry at New Market. To destroy the buildings which had housed such devotion to the South, and where so much military skill and daring had been nurtured, was natural, perhaps; but it was scarcely war in any other terms than those of General Sherman's definition.

At any rate, there is opportunity now to repair war's injustice to this famous seat of learning. The appropriating measure, which has passed the Senate, was introduced there by Senator du Pont, of Delaware, who was an officer in Hunter's army. Introduced in the House by Congressman Flood, it has received a favorable report from the Committee on War Claims.

Obviously, it will not pass at this session unless it becomes the subject of special consideration and emergency treatment. The plea for justice to the institute deserves the cordial support of every member of the Virginia delegation.

Food Now Contraband of War

DECLARATION by the British government that food designed for Germany, Austria-Hungary or Turkey will be regarded hereafter as contraband of war was to have been expected. It was the natural and inevitable result, as The Times-Dispatch pointed out at the time, of Germany's action in ordering the sequestration of food supplies within the empire.

Under the ordinary rules of war, food is conditional contraband, being subject to seizure by a belligerent power only when it is intended for the armed forces of the enemy. Germany's order of sequestration, whereunder food will be seized by the government and be distributed by officers of government, makes it impossible for a neutral shipper to contend that the German army or navy will not profit by any particular cargo.

It is because the Kaiser's advisers must have contemplated the action that Great Britain has taken, and been willing to surrender almost all possibility of the receipt of food from outside the empire, that we have been inclined to attach large importance to the sequestration order. Under the circumstances, it indicates growing appreciation of a threatened scarcity of food supplies.

It must be said for the advocates of a Tax Commission that they made a complete job of their advocacy. They proposed at one time or another every variant of that plan of tax reform that the mind of man can conceive.

Who would have thought that the effort to bring Bill Sunday to Richmond would have been accompanied by an effort to bar the gates against publicity? The Ministerial Association cannot have been in conference recently with the evangelist, progress agent.

The poor old ground hog must have had a hard time yesterday in the effort to keep up his reputation as a weather prophet.

SONGS AND SAWS

Unendurable.
"I do not like these horrid men."
Said Miss Sophronia Jones.
"They make a house look like a den
And speak in strident tones."

"They drink and smoke in manner free,
Which vulgar minds denote,
And then—oh! crowning infamy!
They will not let me vote."

The Psalmist Says:
There's no sense in crying over spilt milk.
Furthermore the very spilling is the nature
of retribution on the man who uses that sort
of beverage.

Enough Is Enough.

"Say, pop,"
"Let's have it," said the tired business man,
Stood fifty-seven varieties of im-
possible questions.

"Do you believe that if at
first we don't succeed,
we should try try again?"
"Not in even cases." For
example, you have been trying
for the last half hour to
wear out my patience. If
you take my advice, you will stop right where
you are."

Not Warranted.

Grimbs—Is there any truth in this report that
Miss O'Brien is to be married?
Stubs—She thinks there is, doubtless, but
in my own view she is merely representing
another triumph of hope over experience.

Real Marksman.

She—Are you learning to drive your car ac-
curately?
He—Indeed I am. The last time I was out
I bagged a doorknob, a mailbox, four chickens
and a pointer pup, and only missed a traffic
policeman by about a quarter of an inch.

Getting Ready for Spring.

The baseball pitcher sheds his coat
And swings his trusty arm.
To try it from long distance
Has suffered from long disuse.
Just now, of course, lawmakers roar
And warring nations rage,
But in a few short weeks he'll take
The centre of the stage.

THE TATTLER.

Chats With Virginia Editors

In the following words, the Fredericksburg Star-Journal is the advocate of the "do it now" policy in the matter of schoolbook purchases: "It is much to be hoped the schoolbook investigation ordered by the General Assembly will develop the real reason why Virginia is so discriminated against by publishing concerns, and why we are forced to pay more for our schoolbooks than the people of other States have to pay for the same identical publications. This investigation should result in bringing to light all the facts surrounding this important matter, and once the facts are known it should be easy to find a remedy for a situation which has for a long time been obnoxious to the people of the State. The investigation should be carried out at once in order that book prices for the next school year may, if possible, be forced lower than at present."

In the Covington Virginian appears a modest prophecy of the future eminence of that community. Here it is: "Somewhere between Richmond and Cincinnati there is going to grow up some such city as Roanoke or Birmingham. These people of the mountains, with their rich mines and their heavily timbered forests and their great wealth of wonderful mineral springs and their fertile valleys, are looking for a metropolis, a market, a place that will cater to their needs, a place that will buy from them and sell to them and manufacture for them and furnish their homes and educate their children and provide amusement for them as Roanoke and Birmingham and Atlanta and other wideawake cities do for their people for a hundred miles or more around." Of course, Covington is not mentioned by name, but it is not hard to understand what Editor Belrne means.

"The tenderfoot, who make up the editorial staff of The Times-Dispatch are generally correct in their views," says the Sandy Valley News, "but they expose their ignorance of the effect of good house when they claim that a fellow cannot hear celestial music while floating in a sea of champagne. Come out 'where the corn is full of kernels, and the colonel's full of corn.'" If you will read over what was first said, colonel, you will observe no question that the gentleman in the happy condition described could hear anything.

Current Editorial Comment

It is now more than a dozen years since the government instituted its Reclamation Department, and the result, according to the testimony of its establishment at Kansas City, Thursday, is the recovery from desert conditions of 15,000,000 acres which have been brought into extraordinary fertility, while plans are under way and in process of execution which will add 50,000,000 more in the future. Perhaps these figures do not come up to expectation at the time this policy was established, but they are sufficiently impressive to show that it was worth while. There are potentially 100,000,000 acres, or an area thirty times as large as the State of Massachusetts, that will eventually be converted from waste land into productive farms. Only about 2,000,000 or our 5,000,000 acres are tillable, so the reclamation processes will redeem for cultivation fifty times as much land as we have at present for our food and our stock raising. That will respond with the largest crops, and in the case of alfalfa, several of them every year.—Boston Transcript.

"Perverted Moral Sense."

It is a curious commentary upon some of the human nature that cities like Boston and New York should have furnished cheering throngs to greet the departure and the passing of a man like Thaw. Having been the faintest trace of the hero in his prime, one element that is admirable in his character and conduct, there might be some excuse for the sentimentalists or for notoriety seekers who have proclaimed their sympathy for him and have sung his praises to continue in his defiance of the law. But none of these excuses are admissible, and the public demonstrations of Saturday must be regretfully viewed as symptoms in the participants of an undeveloped or perverted moral sense.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

The existing method of organizing the direction of large business is properly described and from a disciplinary between practice and theory similar to that from which the American political system has suffered. In theory, a large corporation with a representative democracy is a kind of privilege is indeed based entirely on proportionate ownership rather than on manhood or womanhood, but in the case of corporations with thousands of shareholders, no one or no small group of which owns a majority of the stock, the distinction is not essential. The directors are supposed to be elected by the stockholding owners and to be responsible to them for the general business policy. The chief executive officers are appointed by the directors and are responsible to them for carrying out the instructions. The stockholders control the directors, and the directors control the president and his assistants. In practice, however, the control is exercised only within narrow limits. The chief executive officials almost always dictate the policy, with but little effective check or supervision. The

great majority of large corporations are operated as complete administrative autocracies. An active executive committee of directors may participate in the management, but not in the sense of exercising independent supervision. The board consists largely of rubber stamps.—The New Republic.

Turkey, backed as it is and also to some extent financed by Germany, can hardly be expected to give up the suzerainty of Egypt without a struggle. It is not likely, however, that it will ever recover its authority over the land of the Pharaohs. The interference of the Western powers in the affairs of Egypt began about four years ago during the disastrous Khedivate of Ismail, which placed Egyptian finances under a hopeless load of debt. A dual control by France and Great Britain of its finances was set up, and, later, the Sultan, at the instance of these powers, deposed Ismail. In 1881 came the revolt of Arabi Pasha, and the massacre of Europeans in Alexandria. The British, however, in fear of Germany, hesitated to interfere. Great Britain ordered the bombardment of the Alexandria forts, and the rebellion was suppressed by British troops under Sir Garnet Wolseley. Since then, the control of Egypt by Great Britain has virtually controlled Egypt. In 1904 France, by formal agreement, recognized the predominance of Great Britain in Egypt, and declined to place no obstruction in the path of British rule.—Providence Journal.

Turkey's Claim on Egypt

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War News Fifty Years Ago

(From the Richmond Dispatch, Feb. 3, 1865.)

Vice-President A. H. Stephens, Judge John A. Campbell and Hon. R. M. T. Hunter, the commissioners appointed to go to Washington on a peace mission, were delayed in Petersburg because of the slowness in the coming of the passenger trains through the Federal lines, and did not leave our line until yesterday. During the day a flag of truce was received from General Grant, and it was announced that the commissioners would be expected to reach Washington at 5 o'clock. The commissioners proceeded out the Baxter Road, entered the enemy's line at a point in front of Wise's Brigade of Bushrod Johnson's division, and were preceded by Captain O'Brien, of the Federal army, who carried the flag of truce. They were met midway between the opposing picket lines by several Federal officers, among whom was Colonel Hancock, of General Grant's staff. The bearing of the Federal officers was courteous, graceful and becoming, and all of them were in excellent humor. 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